



REUSABLE NEWS



ICMA Holds FCA Roundtable

As part of a continuing effort to promote full cost accounting (FCA) to local governments, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), under an EPA grant, convened a roundtable of solid waste managers from across the country. The roundtable gathered information about the challenges of developing and implementing FCA, as well as technical and outreach assistance materials to help overcome them.



(FCA helps local governments identify the actual costs of municipal solid waste services.)

Participants identified several common challenges, such as the absence of a standard methodology, difficulties integrating FCA into current accounting systems, and shortage of staff or resources. They suggested solutions for these barriers, some of which EPA has already undertaken in cooperation with ICMA and other solid waste organizations. EPA has prepared a short FCA primer, developed a resource guide, and presented information about FCA at conferences, meetings, and in national forums.



For more information about FCA, contact Angie Leith of EPA at 703 308-7253. 

Jobs Through Recycling Grants to be Awarded

EPA's Jobs Through Recycling Program expects to award \$1.675 million in grants to 18 states and 2 tribes this fall. These grants will support a variety of initiatives aimed at expanding markets for recycled products and creating jobs in recycling industries. EPA has already awarded more than \$4 million to 29 state, regional, and tribal organizations and agencies in the two years since the Agency launched the program in 1994.


When finalized, the 1996 grants will support numerous innovative recycling ventures. Awardees are expected to include the Sitka and Quechan Tribes and the states of Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana,

Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia. Some of the initiatives expected to be implemented by these states include:

- A pilot rug and carpet collection and processing facility in New York that plans to aggregate, sort, and process postconsumer carpets and rugs. The facility intends to use a state-of-the-art laser technology to sort the rug and carpet fibers.
- Michigan's plan to develop methods to reduce cost inefficiencies in collecting, disman-

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WasteWi\$e Celebrates its Second Anniversary

On September 9, 1996, in Washington, DC, EPA's WasteWi\$e program will celebrate its second successful year of helping businesses reduce, recycle, and buy recycled products. The celebration will recognize WasteWi\$e partners' accomplishments and provide opportunities for companies to find out about successful waste prevention strategies. Three workshops are currently planned for the event, which will cover the following topics: keys to a successful waste reduction program, biggest cost savings opportunities through waste prevention, and buying recycled products. For more information about the event, call the WasteWi\$e Helpline at 800 EPA-WISE. 



RESOURCES

Recycled Products on the Road

Re-refined oil, retreaded tires, and recycled engine coolants are cost-effective, reliable, and high-quality products. Several government agencies and their contractors have been using them for years. To encourage more agencies to purchase these products, EPA has just published a Vehicular Products Fact Sheet.

This fact sheet is the fifth in a series on EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG). The CPG includes seven categories of recycled-content items,

including vehicular products, that government agencies using appropriate federal funds should purchase. This fact sheet explains the CPG and the accompanying Recovered Materials Advisory Notice (RMAN),

which recommends the recycled-content levels

to look for when purchasing items on the CPG. The fact sheet discusses the RMAN levels for vehicular products, dispels several common myths about these products, and presents several case studies as well.

For a copy, call the RCRA Hotline and ask for document number EPA530-F-96-019.

Managing Food Scraps

EPA's WasteWi\$e Program, which encourages businesses to reduce and recycle their solid waste, has developed two tip sheets to help companies trim waste from their foodservice operations. The first tip sheet, *Donating*

Surplus Food to the Needy, provides advice on contacting and working with food banks to deliver surplus perishable food to local organizations that feed the needy. The tip sheet addresses health and liability issues, provides contact numbers for national food bank networks, and relates the positive experiences of WasteWi\$e partners who have helped their communities while reducing foodservice wastes.

The second tip sheet, *Managing Food Scraps as Animal Feed*, provides information on how businesses can donate food scraps to local farmers for use as livestock feed. The tip sheet includes storage and handling information, advice on permitting, and suggested resources for further information. Both are available by calling the RCRA Hotline and requesting document numbers EPA530-F-96-038 and EPA530-F-96-037 respectively.

Source Reduction Bibliography

To help municipal solid waste managers locate information specifically on source reduction, EPA has published an annotated bibliography. This 30-page document includes publications exclusively about source reduction, as well as the chapters and sections in more comprehensive waste management texts focusing on source reduction issues. Source reduction, also known as waste prevention, involves the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of products and materials to reduce the amount or toxicity of products and materials that get thrown away.

The bibliography lists only publications issued since 1989 and includes short abstracts, ordering information, and costs. For ease of use, the bibliography is organized by subject (e.g., source reduction policy and legislation, packaging, materials exchanges, case studies). Author and title indices and a list of periodicals that cover source reduction topics also are included.

For a copy of the Source Reduction Bibliography, call the RCRA Hotline and request document number EPA530-B-95-11.

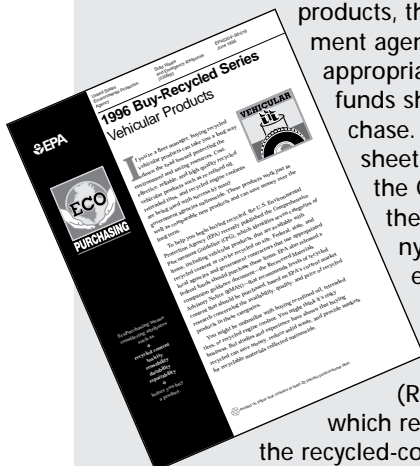
EPA's Pay-As-You-Throw Tool Kit Released

More and more communities—as many as 2,000 nationwide—are making the switch to pay-as-you-throw (also known as variable-rate or unit pricing) programs. Under these programs, residents pay for waste collection and disposal based on the amount of waste they generate. To help interested communities take the leap to pay-as-you-throw, EPA has developed and assembled a series of products into a Pay-As-You-Throw Tool Kit.

The Tool Kit contains: (1) guidebooks to help planners decide whether pay-as-you-throw might work in their communities; (2) a workbook, containing fact sheets, outreach and education ideas, and worksheets, to help determine the best way to design and implement a program; (3) a videotape that planners can use to provide residents and their elected representatives with information about the program; and (4) software to help communities calculate the optimal per-container fees.

The Tool Kit also includes items such as selected news clippings about pay-as-you-throw, clip art for use in creating customized outreach products, and a bibliography for further resource information. To order the complete set of pay-as-you-throw tools, call EPA's Pay-As-You-Throw Helpline toll-free at 888 EPA-PAYT.

For more information about EPA's Pay-As-You-Throw program, contact Jan Canterbury of EPA at 703 308-7264.



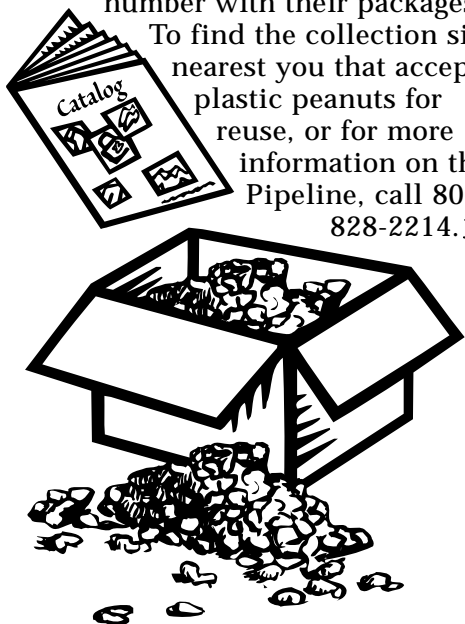
**RCRA Hotline: 800 424-9346 or TDD 800 553-7672.
In the Washington, DC Area: 703 412-9810 or TDD 703 412-3323.**

The Peanut Pipeline

While catalog shopping helps you avoid traffic and crowds, it can deliver a new set of worries when it comes to ordering fragile or breakable goods. To make sure shipments arrive intact, many companies use protective polystyrene loose fill packaging, also known as plastic peanuts. But what should be done with all the peanuts once you receive your goods in one piece? The Plastic Loose Fill Council has the answer: call their "Peanut Pipeline." This nationwide, 24-hour toll-free hotline refers callers to the nearest businesses that accept peanuts for reuse.

Responding to the environmental concerns of mail order customers, a group of plastic peanut manufacturers established the Plastic Loose Fill Council in July 1991 to run the Peanut Pipeline. Mail Boxes, Etc., with over 1,000 collection locations, was the first business to join the program. Today, collection sites are located in all 50 states, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The Peanut Pipeline hotline fields over 7,500 calls per month from all corners of the country, and over 200 mail order companies include the Pipeline phone number with their packages.

To find the collection site nearest you that accepts plastic peanuts for reuse, or for more information on the Pipeline, call 800 828-2214. ☎



Ensuring Responsible Care

Since 1991, EPA has required local governments to plan for proper closure and postclosure care for Subtitle D landfills. These requirements ensure that local governments have sufficient resources to close landfills properly and perform postclosure monitoring and maintenance. EPA is currently finalizing a rule that would allow local governments more flexibility in how they comply with the financial assurance requirements. In the past, local governments that did not meet these requirements ran the risk of incurring corrective action costs, which can range from \$15 to \$50 million.

EPA expects the final rule to be complete late this summer. For more information, contact George Garland of EPA at 703 308-7272. ☎

Relooking at Reuse

International Furniture and Bedding (IFB) in Baltimore, Maryland, gives new life to approximately 3,000 old mattresses a week. The company dismantles the old mattresses, repairs springs, frames, and other materials, and reuses the parts in "new" mattresses. IFB recycles the materials that it can't reuse, such as old fabric and ticking. The company has replicated its operations in Brooksville, Florida, and is hoping to expand nationwide.

IFB is just one of the reuse companies profiled in four booklets being developed by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR). Under a grant from EPA, ILSR is addressing ways to expand the reuse industry in the United States by researching companies that either are planning to expand across the country or could be replicated easily. The booklets focus on four different reusable commodities: textiles, household durables, electronics, and shipping pallets. Each offers lessons learned from the profiled companies, as well as tips for replication. For information or to receive the booklets when available, write to Reuse Project, ILSR, 2425 18th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. ☎

Industrial D Stakeholder Meeting Held

Each year, almost 12,000 manufacturing facilities generate and manage 7.6 billion tons of industrial nonhazardous waste on site in land-based disposal units. On April 11-12, 1996, EPA convened a focus group of stakeholders from state solid waste management programs, industry, and environmental groups to discuss the development of voluntary guidelines for managing this waste.

At the meeting, stakeholders discussed the scope and purpose of the voluntary guidance, risk issues, and appropriate liner design options. EPA and the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) will use this information to develop voluntary guidelines. This guidance will recommend a process for characterizing facility-specific risks and describe strategies to lower risks through waste minimization and treatment, as well as safe management practices.

The next Industrial Solid Waste focus group meeting will be September 11-12, 1996, in Arlington, Virginia. For further information, contact Paul Cassidy of EPA at 703 308-7281. ☎

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ting, and delivering post-consumer auto parts, especially composite plastic parts (e.g., bumpers, door panels). The project will involve existing scrap auto collectors, dismantlers, and reclaimers in southeast Michigan.

- A Wood and Waste Resource Center in Tennessee that intends to investigate waste wood reuse strategies and assist in creating new businesses that use wood wastes as their raw materials.
- Two Southeastern Recycling Investment Forums in 1996 and 1997, coordinated by South Carolina, that will bring together investors and promising recycling, reuse, composting, and waste reduction firms in need of additional capital.

For more information about the Jobs Through Recycling program, call John Leigh of EPA at 703 308-7896. ☎



This issue of *Reusable News* is also available on the Internet. To access this and other EPA publications through the World Wide Web, type:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/reuse.htm>

Through Gopher: direct access 919 558-0335

Address: gopher.epa.gov

Port: 70

Sector: 1/Offices/Waste/OSWRCRA/non-hw/recycle/reuse

New Flexibility for Small MSW Landfills

Small municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills—those that receive no more than 20 tons of MSW per day—now have more flexibility, thanks to the Land Disposal Program Flexibility Act. President Clinton signed this act into law on March 26, 1996, and EPA is currently revising its regulations to implement the new requirements.

Eight hundred small MSW landfills located in dry or remote areas will receive an exemption from ground-water monitoring requirements. These landfills are in the western United States and Alaska. The rule will reinstate a provision that had been suspended due to court action in 1993.

EPA is also working to provide additional flexibility to all small landfills that receive less than 20 tons of waste per day. This flexibility would include alternative frequencies of daily cover and methane monitoring, infiltration layers for final cover, and means for demonstrating financial assurance. This proposal recognizes that these decisions are best made at the state and local level and, therefore, will provide enhanced flexibility to approved states.

For more information, contact Allen Geswein of EPA at 703 308-7261. ☎

Managing Solid Waste on Tribal Lands

More than 500 tribal representatives and environmental professionals attended the Third National Conference on Tribal Environmental Management, held on May 21-23, 1996, on the Flathead reservation in Montana. The conference was co-sponsored by EPA and the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes. Five sessions focused on solid waste issues such as cooperative agreements for solid waste management, dump closure, landfill permitting, planning solid waste management alternatives, and financing opportunities and revenue sources for solid waste management activities.

The solid waste sessions ended with a forum for assessing tribal training needs in solid waste management. Speakers gave presentations covering major areas discussed in previous sessions and commented on the type of training and technical support needed within each area.

For more information about tribal solid waste issues or EPA activities in this area, contact Beverly Goldblatt of EPA at 703 308-7278. ☎



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